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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 25 July 1995 from the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Croatia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement issued after the meeting held in Brijuni Island on 21 July 1995 between H.E. Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, and H.E. Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey.

We would be grateful if you could have this statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 92 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Croatia to
the United Nations

(Signed) Hayati GÜVEN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Turkey
to the United Nations

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Annex

Joint statement issued by the President of Croatia and the President of Turkey at Brijuni Island on 21 July 1995

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Franjo Tudjman, the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Süleyman Demirel paid a working visit to the Republic of Croatia at Brijuni Island on 21 July 1995.

The two Presidents and the high-level delegations of the two countries discussed the recent political and military developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia and expressed their alarm over the aggravation of the crisis in the region due to the continuation of the Serbian expansionism. They are appalled by the humanitarian catastrophe and the human rights violations caused by this aggression and called upon the international community, and particularly human rights organizations, to address the immediate needs of all refugees and displaced persons.

They most strongly condemned recent offensives against and the invasion of the United Nations protected areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Bosnian Serbs as well as their constant rebuttal of all peace efforts, especially the Contact Group peace plan. They equally condemned the cross-border attacks by the Croatian Serbs in the Bihac area, as well as their attempts to provoke tensions as part of the policy of refusal to accept the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian occupied territories. President Tudjman informed President Demirel that Croatia may be compelled to take measures to protect its security interests in the light of the gravity of the situation in the Bihac area in case the international community and the United Nations fail to take appropriate action within the framework of their mandate.

The two Presidents stressed that the present escalation of military operations by the Serb forces in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina may not only lead to the continuation of the conflict, but may also further destabilize the region. They particularly noted that the responsibility falls on the Government in Belgrade, which refuses to accept mutual recognition of the States of the region. It continues to extend operational, military and technical support to the Serb irregulars in both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and has troops on the territory of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two Presidents were also dismayed by the lack of will of the international community to take adequate steps to prevent and redress the current highly dangerous developments, and particularly by the ineffectiveness of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina and UNCRO in Croatia. They reiterated their conviction that, as victims of aggression, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have the right to self-defence.

They reaffirmed their conviction that the gravity of the situation confirms the need for immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Washington agreements. That is crucial for the preservation of the national and territorial interests of Bosnian Croats and Bosniacs. They expressed their

unreserved support to the Bosniac-Croat Federation and to the enhancement of the confederal ties between the Federation and the Republic of Croatia. They particularly underlined the importance of the cooperation between Bosnian Croats and Bosniacs at this point in the crisis in the field of joint defence.

The two Presidents agreed to undertake coordinated diplomatic efforts at the international level for immediate action to thwart the dangerous development of the crisis and for the relaunching of the peace process.

They called upon the Contact Group to take concrete and resolute steps in order to prevent further Serbian aggression and invited all democratic States to give the utmost help to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.

President Tudjman reiterated the appreciation of the Croatian Government and people for the positive role played by the Turkish battalion in restoring confidence between the Croats and Bosniacs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They have also expressed their satisfaction with the excellent development of the bilateral relations between Croatia and Turkey and discussed various means to improve this cooperation further.